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The Daily Commercial.

From Yesterday's 3d Edition.

Assassination.

A FIENDISH PLOT.

Shooting of Pres't. Lincoln

HE WILL PROBABLY DIE.

STABBING OF SEC'RY SEWARD.

HIS TWO SONS FATALLY INJURED.

A MOST DAMNABLE DEED.

WHO WANTS AMNESTY?

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 14.

The President, Secretary Seward and Major Seward, have been assassinated by some desperadoes to-night, evidently under some preconcerted arrangement.

About half past ten o'clock this evening a well dressed person appeared at the house of Secretary Seward and asked to see him. He was informed that he could not, upon which he said that he had a prescription from Surgeon General Barnes, which he was ordered to deliver in person. The servant referred him to Fred. Seward. The latter told the stranger that he was master of the house and would take charge of the medicine, but the desperado refused to deliver it, and immediately rushed past Fred. Seward, and struck Seward with a dagger in the throat and breast, but upon examination by the Surgeon Gen eral he is pronounced safe, not having the jugular vein cut or the heart penetrated deep enough to prove fatal. He is now pronounced safe.

Major Seward, son of the Secretary, and Paymaster in the army, was also badly cut in his efforts to defend his father. The assassin had a horse at the door, and as he was mounting he pronounced the motto of the State of Virginia, *"Sic Temper Tyrannus."*

Simultaneously with this, another desperado appeared at Ford's theatre and obtained admittance to the box occupied by Mr. Lincoln, and shot the President in the back of the head; then jumped from the box to the stage and repeated the motto of Virginia, *"Sic Temper Tyrannus."* In a moment more had disappeared.

1230 A. M.—Secretaries Stanton, Welles, McCulloch, Dennison, Speed and Usher have just arrived at the place where the President is lying. There is no hope of his recovery. The attending physicians pronounce his case hopeless. His brains are oozing from his wound, and he is now rapidly sinking. His wife and children are at his bedside.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln were at Ford's theatre listening to the performance of the "American Cousin," occupying a box in the second tier. At the close of the third act a person entered the box occupied by the President and shot Mr. Lincoln in the head, the shot entering the back part of his head, and came out above the temple. The assassin then jumped from the box upon the stage and ran across to the other side, exhibiting a dagger in his hand and flourishing it in a tragical manner, shouting the same words repeated by the desperado at Seward's house and added to it "The South is avenged!" and then escaped from the back entrance to the stage, but in his passage dropped his pistol and his hat.

Mr. Lincoln fell forward from his seat, and Mrs Lincoln fainted. The moment that the astonished audience could realize what had happened, the President was taken out and carried to Mrs. Peterson's house, on Tenth street, opposite the the theater. Medical aid was immediately sent for, and the wound was at first supposed to be fatal, and it was announced that, he would not live, but at half past twelve he is still alive, though in a precarious condition As the assassin ran across the stage, Col. J. B. Stewart, of this city, who was occupying one of the front seats in the orchestra, on the same side of the house as the one occupied by Mr. Lincoln, sprung to the stage as I followed him, but he was obstructed in his passage by the fright of the actors, and reached the back door about three seconds after the assassin had passed out. Colonel Stewart got to the street just in time to see him mount his horse and ride away.

This operation shows the whole thing was a premeditated plan. The person who fired the pistol was a man about thirty years of age, about five feet nine, spare built, fair skin, dark hair, apparently with a large moustache.

Laura Keene and the leader of the orchestra declare that they recognized him as J. Wilkes Booth, the actor and a rabid secessionist. Who ever he was, it is plainly evident that he thoroughly understood the theatre, and also the approaches and modes of escape by the stage. A person not familiar with the theatre could not have possibly made his escape so well and quickly.

The alarm was sounded in every quarter. Stanton was notified, and immediately left his house. All the other members of the Cabinet escaped attack. Cavalry men were sent out in all directions, and dispatches sent to all the fortifications, and it is thought they will be captured.

130 O'CLOCK A. M.—The President is perfectly senseless and shows not the slightest hope of recovery. Physicians believe that he will die before morning. All of his cabinet except Secretary Seward are with him. Speaker Colfax, Senator Farwell of Maine, and many other gentlemen are also at the house awaiting the termination.

WASHINGTON, April 15.

1:15 A. M.—The President is slowly dying. The brain is oozing through the ball hole in his forehead. He is of course insensible. There is an occasional lifting of his hand and heavy stentorious breathing, that is all. Mrs. Lincoln and her two sons are in a room of the house opposite to Ford's Theatre, where the President was taken, and adjoining that where he is lying. Mr. Sumner is seated at the head of the bed. Secretaries Stanton, Welles, Dennison, Usher and McCulloch and Mr. Speed, are in the room. A large number of surgeons, Generals, and personal and family friends of Mr. Lincoln fill the house, all are in tears.

Andrew Johnson is here. He was in bed when the assassination was committed, in his room at the Kirkwood. He was immediately apprised of the event and got up The precaution was taken to provide a guard of soldiers for him, and these were at the door before the news was well through the Avenue.

Captain Rothbone, of Albany, was in the box with the President. He was slightly wounded.

1:30 A. M.—The streets in the vicinity of Ford's Theater are densely crowd-ed by an anxious crowd. A guard has been placed across Tenth street at E and F streets, and only certain officers and persons had carried-at friends of the President are allowed to pass. The popular heart is deeply stirred, and the deepest indignation against leading rebels is freely expressed. The scene at the house where the President lies is extreme, is very exciting. Even Secretary Stanton is affected to tears. When the fact first spread through the city that the President had been shot, the people with pale faces and compressed lips, crowded every place where there was the slightest chance in obtaining information in regard to the affair.

After the President was shot, Lieut. Rathbone, who was in the box with him, caught the assassin by the arm, who immediately struck him with a knife, and jumped from the box as before stated

The popular affection for Mr. Lincoln has been shown by this diabolical assassination, which will bring eternal infamy not only upon its authors but upon the selfish cause which they desire to avenge.

Vice President Johnson arrived at the house where the President lies about one o'clock, and will remain with him to the last.

The President's family are in attendance upon him also. As soon as intelligence could be got to the War Department, the electric telegraph and Signal Corps were put in requisition to endeavor to prevent the escape of the assassin and all the troops around Washington are under arms.

Popular report points to a somewhat celebrated actor, of known secession proclivities, as the assassin, but it would be unjust to name him until some further evidence of his guilt is obtained. It is rumored that the person alluded to is in custody.

The latest advices from Secretary Seward reveal more desperate work there than at first supposed. Seward's wounds are not in themselves fatal, but in connection with his recent injuries, and the great loss of blood, his recovery is doubtful. It was Clarence A. Seward, instead of Wm. H. Seward, Jr., who was wounded. Fred. Seward was also badly cut, as were also three nurses who were in attendance upon the Secretary, showing that a desperate struggle took place there, but none of them fatally. The wounds of the whole party were dressed.

1:45 A. M.—I have just visited the dying couch of Abraham Lincoln. He is now in the agonies of death, and his physicians say he cannot live more than an hour. He is surrounded by the members of his Cabinet, all of whom are bathed in tears. Senator Sumner is seated on the right of the couch on which he is lying, the tears streaming down his cheeks and sobbing like a child. All around him are his physicians, Surgeon General Barnes, directing affairs.

The President is unconscious, and the only sign of life he exhibits is by the movement of his right hand, which he raises feebly. Mrs. Lincoln and her two sons are in the adjoining room, into which Secretary Stanton has just gone to inform them that the President's physicians have pronounced his case hopeless. As I pass through the passage to the front door, I hear shrieks and cries proceeding from the room in which the grief stricken wife and children are seated.

I obtain from Quartermaster General Meigs the following account of the assassination: About half past ten o'clock a man dressed in a dark suit and hat entered the private box in which Mr. Lincoln and his party, consisting of Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris, daughter of Senator Harris, and Captain Rathbone, of Albany, were seated.

Immediately upon opening the door he advanced towards Mr. Lincoln with a six barreled revolver either in the right hand and a bowie knife in his left. The President, who was intent upon the play, did not notice his intrusion, and the gentleman who was seated beside him rose to inquire the reason of his entry. Before he had time to ask the assassin what he wanted he fired one shot from his revolver, which took effect in the back of the President's head The ball passed through and came out at the right temple. Capt. Rathbone, who was in the box with Mr. Lincoln, attempted to arrest the murderer, and, in trying to do so, received a stab in his arm. The assassin then leaped from the box on to the stage. Before he disappeared behind the curtain, he turned, and, with a tragic flourish and tone, waved his knife and shouted, "Sic Semper Tyrannis."

So sudden was the affair, that for some moments after its occurrence the audience supposed that it was part of the play, and were only undeceived when it was announced from the stage by the manager that the President of the United States had been shot.

The shock fell on the audience like a thunderbolt, and loud cries were immediately made to kill or capture the assassin. The scene which ensued cannot be described. Men and women fainted, and for the moment all was confusion, crying and shouting for vengeance on the murderer. The murderous emissary of the slave power escaped easily and rapidly from the theatre, and mounted a horse and escaped.

The President, insensible, was carried out and taken to a house right opposite the theatre. Mrs. Lincoln fainted in the box, and was borne to the stage beneath and across to the opposite side, making his escape amid the bewilderment of the audience, from the rear of the theatre and, mounting a horse, fled. The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the President had been shot. When all present rose to their feet, rushing toward the stage, many exclaiming "Hang him!"

The excitement was of the wildest possible description, and, of course, there was an abrupt termination of the theatrical performance. There was a rush towards the President's box, when cries were heard, "Stand back and give him air!" "Has any one stimulants?" On a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head above the left temple in a temporal cant, and that some of the brain was oozing out. He was removed to a private house opposite the theater, and the Surgeon General of the army and other surgeons sent for to attend to his condition.

On an examination of the private box blood was discovered on the back of the cushioned seat in front of the President, and a common single-barrelled pocket pistol was found on the carpet. A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed.

An immense crowd was in front of it all deeply anxious to learn the condition of the President. It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise. The shock to the community was terrible. At midnight, the Cabinet, with Messrs. Sumner, Betts, and Farnsworth, Judge Bates, Gov. Oglesby, Gen. Meigs, etc. Hay and a few personal friends, with Surgeon General Barnes and his immediate assistants were around his bedside. The President was in a state of syncope, totally insensible, and breathing heavily, the blood oozing slowly from the back of his head. The sinking on exhaustion of every effort of medical skill, but all hope was gone. The parting of his family with the dying President is to be sad for description.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln did not start for the theatre until fifteen minutes after eight o'clock. Speaker Colfax was at the White House at the time, and the President stated to him that he was going, although Mrs. Lincoln had not been well, because the papers had announced that General Grant and lady were to be present, and as General Grant had gone North, he did not wish the audience to be disappointed. He went with apparent reluctance and urged Mr. Colfax to go with him, but that gentleman had made other engagements, and with Mr. Ashmun, of Massachusetts, bid him good bye

When the excitement at the theatre was at its wildest height reports were circulated that Secretary Seward had also been assassinated. On reaching this general panic prevailed, a crowd and a military guard were at the door, and entering it was ascertained that the reports were based on truth. Everything there was so excited that scarcely an intelligible word could be gathered, but the fact is substantially as follows:—About ten o'clock a man rang the bell and the call having been answered by a colored servant he said he had come from Dr. Verdi, Secretary Seward's family physician, with a prescription, at the same time holding in his hand a folded paper, and saying in answer to a refusal, that he must see the Secretary, as he was entrusted with particular directions concerning the medicine. He still insisted on going up, although repeatedly informed he could not do so.

The man pushed the servant aside and was led hastily towards the Secretary's room, and was there met by Fred. Seward, of whom he demanded to see the Secretary, making the same representation which he did to the servant. What further passed in the way of parley is not known, but Frederick Seward felt him on the head with a billy, severely injuring the skull and felling him almost senseless.

The assassin then rushed into the chamber and attacked Major Seward, paymaster of the United States Army, and Mr. Hansell, a messenger in the State Department, who were in bed, inflicting many severe wounds, disabling them. He then rushed upon the Secretary, who was lying in bed in the same room, and inflicted a severe stab in the neck, but severing, it is thought and hoped, no arteries, though he bled profusely. The assassin then mounted and dashed on his horse at the door, and fled before an alarm could be sounded, in the same manner as the assassin of the President.

It is believed that the injuries of the Secretary are not fatal, nor those of either of the others, although both the Secretary and Assistant Secretary are very severely injured. Secretary Stanton and Wells and others, called at Secretary Seward's residence, to inquire into the condition, and the report of the assassination of the President. They then proceeded to the house of the President, where he was lying, exhibiting, of course, intense anxiety and solicitation. An immense crowd was gathered in front of the President's house, and a strong guard was also stationed there, many persons evidently supposing he would be brought to his house.

The entire city to night presents a scene of the wildest excitement, accompanied by violent expressions of indignation and the profoundest sorrow. Many shed tears. The military and authorities have dispatched mounted men in every direction in order if possible to arrest the assassins. The whole metropolitan police are under arms, and the entire force is on duty.

The attack both at the theatre and at Secretary Seward's house took place about the same hour—10 o'clock—thus showing preconcerted plan to assassinate those gentlemen. Some evidence of the guilt of the party who attacked the President is in the possession of the police. Vice President Johnson is in the city, and his headquarters are guarded by troops.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, } April 15th, 1:30 A. M. }

To Major General Dix, N. Y.

This evening, at about 9:30 p. m., at Ford's Theatre, the President, while sitting in his private box with Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris, Capt. Rathbone, was shot by an assassin who suddenly entered the box and approached behind the President. The assassin then leaped down on the stage, brandishing a large dagger or knife, and made his escape in the rear of the theatre. The wound of the President is mortal. The physicians have no hope that he can survive the night. The President has not been conscious since the infliction of the wound, and is now dying.

About the same hour an assassin, whether the same or not, entered Mr. Seward's apartments, and under pretence of having a prescription, was shown to the Secretary's sick chamber. The assassin then immediately went to the bed and inflicted two or three stabs on the throat and two in the face. It is hoped that the wounds inflicted will not be mortal. Mr. Appleton is reported to be resting quietly, and it is believed he will recover.

The murderer then jumped upon the stage and effected his escape from the place.

Assassination of Secretary Seward and his Sons.

STATEMENT OF A MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY.

A Fierce Struggle and a Bloody End.

Attempt to Cut the Secretary's Throat

FORTUNATE FAILURE TO SUCCEED.

The Murderer's Instruments of Death.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 15.

A relative of the family of Secretary Seward furnishes the following additional particulars of the murderous attempt at his residence:

Mr. Fred. W. Seward attempted to prevent the miscreant who is a very large and powerful man, from entering his father's chamber. The assassin, assigned as a plausible excuse, but did not succeed in discharging it; he then struck him two blows upon the head with it, crushing the skull and felling him to the floor, and immediately rushing into the room he accomplished on the Secretary's throat, and succeeded in first severe gashes upon his face, laying open both cheeks, but was prevented from cutting his throat, owing to the fact that Mr. Seward rolled out on the floor from the inflicting fatal injury. A soldier by this time had entered the room and sprang upon the assassin's back, who stabbed him in the neck and succeeded in breaking loose, and after wounding Major Seward, another son of the Secretary's, and an attendant, reached his horse and made away.

The pistol was a long navy revolver, and was broken in pieces by the force of the blows. It is covered with blood. The knife used was some ten or twelve inches in length, and was a solo left in the house. The assistant who was stabbed in the lungs, died a few hours ago.

THE FEELING IN WASHINGTON

TERRIBLE STATE OF EXCITEMENT.

Desperate Resolves for Retributive Vengeance.

A SOLDIER SHOOTS A CITIZEN.

Instant Death for Expressing Gladness.

A Terrible Warning.

BOOTH'S PERSONAL EFFECTS

He is Fairly Implicated.

Meeting of the Citizens of Illinois.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 15.

The city is convulsed with excitement. The all prevailing gloom of last night has given place, this morning, to a great determination to desperate resolves to visit retributive vengeance on all rebel participants to the ultimate extent. The slightest expressions of secession sentiments are sure to be answered by blood.

A few moments since a rebel resident in quired of a guard in front of the State Department if it were true the President was dead. The soldier replies it was. Whereupon the citizen replied, "I am glad of it." He had hardly concluded the utterance when the guard put a ball through his head, and he fell now a corpse, execrated by all, though dead; while the soldier is toasted and feted, and is the hero of the war. The incident fully illustrates the intensity of popular feeling. Booth's personal effects were seized at the Kirkwood last evening. In the trunk were two pairs of sharp hand cuffs and colonels uniform, and a large number of letters. The latter clearly implicating him in a general plot of assassination Yesterday he called at the Kirkwood House, and obtained the number of the Vice President's room. The key was found last night near the Lincoln hospital, in the Eastern suburbs of the city, was identified this morning by the owner as the one hired to Booth. It was evident, from the condition of the saddle, etc., that the horse had thrown its rider.

The body of Mr. Lincoln has been removed to the White House.

The citizens of Illinois met this afternoon, at two o'clock, to consult in regard to the removal of the President's remains to that State.

Andrew Johnson took the Presidential oath this morning. It was administered by Chief Justice Chase, immediately upon it being known that the President was dead.

The Secretary of the Navy telegraphed to the picket boats on the Potomac and in the Chesapeake Bay to overhaul all floating crafts, and arrest all suspicious persons.

The city is draped with mourning.

NEW YORK.

PROCLAMATION BY GOV. FENTON.

Thanksgiving Changed to Prayer and Humiliation.

NEW YORK, April 15.

The Governor of New York has issued a proclamation revoking the proposed thanksgiving for our recent victories, on April 20th, and changing it to one of prayer and humiliation for our great affliction.

EXTRA

SIND'Y, 4 A. M.

THE ASSASSINATION.

MURDER OF THE PRESIDENT.

Statement of an Eye Witness.

PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE ASSASSIN.

Having Shot the President he Attempts to Stab Him,

Major Rathbone Receives the Blow.

THE MURDERER'S ESCAPE

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 15.

Miss. Harris who was it the box with the President at the time of the murder, gives the following account of the affair:

Nearly an hour before the commission of the deed, the assassin came to the door of the box, and looked in to take a survey of the positions of its occupants. Supposing it to be either a mistake, or the exercise an act of an impertinent curiosity, this circumstance, at the time, attracted no attention.

Upon his entering the box again, however, Major Rathbone arose and asked the intruder his business. He rushed past him without making any reply, and placing his pistol close to the back of the President's head, or actually in contact with it, Miss Harris thinks, fired, and instantly sprang upon the cushioned banister of the box, where he made a backward plunge with his knife, aimed at the face or breast of Mr. Lincoln. Maj R. springing forth to protect the President, received the stab in his arm. The murderer then jumped upon the stage and effected his escape from the place.

Sec. Seward's Death Contradicted.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 13.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK.—The body of our President has been taken to the White House. The coffin was wrapped in American flags, with cavalry escort around the hearse.

Distinguished men of the Cabinet followed, among whom is Secretary Stanton closely guarded. It is reported one of the assassins has been capturred. The person said to be captured is J. W. Booth.

Secretary Seward is comfortable, his son Fred. W. Seward is very low. The departments and all stores are closed; the city is draped in mourning and all business is suspended.

W. C. H.

PRES'T. LINCOLN ASSASSINATED.

Long after the hour of midnight the awful news reached us that the President of the United States, and Secretary SEWARD have been assassinated by unknown desperadoes. At this juncture, when our most generous of Presidents, (for no more merciful man than ABRAHAM LINCOLN ever occupied the highest pinnacle of Republican dignity,) had been studying out a plan of mercy to the rebels who have sought to ruin the best government known to civilization, some desperate scoundrels have wormed their way into the capital of Earth's greatest nation, and sought to appease the godlessness of slavery by taking the lives of two of America's greatest citizens.

The telegraph seemes to have run wild in conveying such sad intelligence, but we must accept it as true, and mourn over the fact while we commend to the God of Nations, the God of Justice and the God of Liberty the spirit of ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

If this bitter thing be true, it is well for the nation that ABRAHAM LINCOLN has not gone to his rest before finishing the work which God had given him to do; and it is well for the nation that it has arrived at that standard where by the aid and by the faith of liberty it can look up to the God of Nations and ask forgiveness for all that is wrong.

We know that ABRAHAM LINCOLN was merciful—that he even calculated upon mercy beyond the temper of the popular sentiment towards rebels; but that is a subject which must now be left to the people. Let the people say what shall be done with rebel leaders now!

Let us now hear what amnesty means!

This morning it is impossible to make any proper statement of this case. We must refer our readers to the telegraphic account of the affair for the horrible details. We forbear to say anything more on the awful subject. It staggers us, as it will stagger the whole nation; hence we must pause.

Read the details and ponder!

MR. SEWARD.

Disappearance of Grey Uniforms in Washington.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. GRANT

ITS GOOD EFFECT.

LETTER DISCLOSING THE PLAN.

RICHMOND HIS HEAD QUARTERS.

Rebel Government Implicated

The 4th of March the Original Day fixed.

President Lincoln's Last Words.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 15.

THREE P. M.—Mr. Seward is a little easier in his son's condition, though somewhat improved, is considered hopeless. He has partially recovered from his stupor, but is still unable to recognize his family.

Not one of the numberless gay uniforms of deserters and paroled prisoners, who have been for weeks past so thickly seen in our streets, has been visible to-day.

Gen. Grant arrived here at 2 o'clock in a special train from Philadelphia. His presence tends to somewhat allay the excitement.

The letter signed "Stim," dated Hooker Co., but which was found in Booth's trunk, refers to an attack to be made on the Cabinet and President on the 4th of March, and advises a postponement of the assassination until the views of the Richmond conspirators could be ascertained.

The writer also urges Booth to be cautious, as the suspicions of the Washington authorities had been excited and that they were prepared to defeat any attempt of the kind on that day.

The author of the letter, in conclusion, tells Booth to go to Richmond and ascertain how such action would be regarded by the rebel Government.

The last lines penned by Mr. Lincoln were written on a card at about 8.15 p. m., while seated in his carriage in front of the White House, just before he started to go to the theater. They were addressed to Hon. Geo. Ashman, and were as follows:

Allow Mr. Ashman and Friend to come to me at 9 a. m., to-morrow.

[Signed] A. LINCOLN.

April 14th, 1865.

The President's Last Moments.

IMPRESSIVE SCENE.

Prayers of the Dead and Living.

THE PRESIDENT'S CONDITION DURING THE NIGHT.

Mrs. Lincoln and Her Son Present.

OTHER PERSONS PRESENT

Solemn Procession to the White House.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 15.

At twenty-two minutes past seven o'clock the President breathed his last, closing his eyes as if failing to sleep, and his countenance assuming an expression of perfect serenity. He gave no indications of pain, and it was not known that he was dead until the gradually decreasing respiration ceased altogether. Rev. Dr. Gurley, immediately on its being ascertained that life was extinct, knelt at the bedside and offered an impressive prayer, which was responded to by many present. The fact that Mr. Seward rolled out on the floor from inflicting fatal injury. A soldier by this time had entered the room and sprang upon the assassin's back, who stabbed him in the neck and succeeded in breaking loose, and after wounding Major Seward, another son of the Secretary's, and an attendant, reached his horse and made away.

The pistol was a long navy revolver, and was broken in pieces by the force of the blows. It is covered with blood. The knife used was some ten or twelve inches in length, and was a solo left in the house. The assistant who was stabbed in the lungs, died a few hours ago.

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

Vice President John on inducted into the Presidency.

The Administering of the Oath.

President Johnson's Remarks

He Accepts the Duties and Responsibilities.

He Realizes their Importance.

A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION.

His First Proclamation Expected Soon.

Funeral of the Late President

The Present Cabinet to be Retained.

By Associated Press:

WASHINGTON, April 15.

Andrew Johnson was sworn into office as President of the United States, at eleven o'clock to-day. The ceremony took place at his rooms, in the Kirkwood House. As soon as the arrangements could be perfected, Chief Justice Chase was informed of the fact and repaired to the appointed place, in company with Secretary McCullough, of the Treasury Department; Attorney General Speed, F. P. Blair, senior, Hon. Montgomery Blair, Senators Foote, of Vermont; Ramsey, of Minnesota; Yates, of Illinois; Stewart, of Nevada; Hale, of New Hampshire, and Representative Farnsworth, of Illinois. At eleven o'clock the oath of office was administered by the Chief Justice of the United States in the usual solemn and impressive manner.

Mr. Johnson received the kind expressions of the gentlemen, in which he showed his appreciation of the great responsibilities which has devolved upon him, and made a brief speech, in which he said:" The duties of the office are mine; I will perform them, the consequences are with God. Gentlemen, I shall lean upon you. I feel that I shall need your support. I am deeply impressed with the solemnity of the occasion, and the responsibilities of the duties of the office I am assuming.

Mr. Johnson appeared to be in remarkably good health, and has a high and realizing sense of the hopes that are centered upon him. His manner was serious and dignified, and his whole bearing produced the most favorable impression upon those who participated in the ceremonies. It is probable that during the day President Johnson will issue his first proclamation to the American people.

It is expected, though nothing has been definitely announced upon the subject, that all of the late President Lincoln will take place on or about Tuesday next. It is supposed that his remains will be temporarily deposited in the Congressional cemetery.

OFFICIAL.

WAR DEPARTMENT, } WASHINGTON, April 15, 1865 }

Major General Dix, New York:

Official notice of the death of the late President, Abraham Lincoln, was given by the heads of the departments, this morning, to Andrew Johnson, Vice President, upon whom constitutionally devolved the office of President. Mr. Johnson, upon receiving this notice, appeared before the Hon. Salmon P. Chase, Chief Justice of the United States, and took the oath of office as President of the United States, and assumed its duties and functions at twelve o'clock.

The President met the heads of the departments in a cabinet meeting at the Treasury building, and among other business the following was transacted:—First, The arrangements for the funeral of the late President were referred to the several Secretaries so far as relates to their respective departments. Second, William Hunter, Esq., has been appointed Acting Secretary of State during the disability of Mr. Seward, and his appointment as Assistant Secretary. Third, The President finally announced that he did not wish to retain the present Secretaries of the Cabinet, and they would give such aid and encouragement to their successors in the same manner as tendered to the deposed Secretary, but was changed the head of Government.

All business in the Departments was suspended during the day. The surgeons report that the condition of Mr. Seward remains unchanged. He is doing well. There is no improvement in Mr. Fred Seward. The murderer has not yet been apprehended.

[Signed] E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

The Assassins! VERY LATEST.

Their Identity and Movements.

THE SCOPE OF THE PLOT.

The Vice-President and Others Were Included.

PARTIAL FAILURE OF THE SCHEME.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1865.

About 12 o'clock last night, two men crossed the Anacosta Bridge; one of whom gave his name as Booth and the other as Smith. The latter is believed to be John Surratt. Last night a riderless horse was found, which has been identified by the proprietor of one of the stables previously mentioned, as having been hired from his establishment. Accounts are conflicting as to whether Booth crossed over the bridge on horseback or on foot; but it is believed that he rode across. It is presumed that he had exchanged his horse.

From information in the possession of the authorities, it is evident that the scope of the plot was intended to be much more comprehensive. The Vice President and other prominent members of the Administration were particularly inquired for by suspicioned parties, and their precise locations ascertained, but providentially in their cases the scheme miscarried. A boat was at once sent down the Potomac to notify the gunboats on the lookout for the perpetrators. The most ample precautions have been taken and it is not believed the culprits will long succeed in evading the overtaking arm of justice.

Among the circumstances tending to fix a participation in the crime on Booth, were letters found in his trunk, one of which appears ready to a daily, supplemental one to desist from the nefarious undertaking, in which he was about to embark.

The extra *Intelligencer* says: From the evidence obtained it is rendered highly probable that the man who stabbed Mr. Seward and his sons is John Surratt, of Prince George county, Maryland. The horse he rode was hired at Taylor's stable, on Fourteenth street. Surratt is a young man, with light hair and a gatee. His brother, we have been Postmaster of Prince George county.

April 15—The assassin of President Lincoln left behind him his pistol and a spur. He has been picked up in the President's box, and has been identified by parties to whom it has been shown as the one belonging to the suspected man, and accurately described by other parties not allowed to see it for reasons bing it.

The spur was dropped upon the stage, and that also has been identified as the one procured at a stable, where the same man hired a horse in the evening.

Two gentlemen who went to the Secretary of War to apprise him of the attack on the President, met at the residence of the former, a little after 10 o'clock, which was occupied by them, lassened away. It had been Mr. Stanton's intention to accompany Mr. Lincoln to the theatre and to occupy the same box, but the press of business prevented it.

It seems evident that the aim of the plotters was to paralyze the country by at once striking down the head, the heart and the arm of the country. As soon as the dread events were known to Secretary Stanton, Superintendent Richards and his Assistants were at work to discover the Assassins. In a few minutes the telegraph had flashed the whole police force of the city. Mayor Wallach and several members of the city Government were on the ground in every direction was taken to preserve order in the city. Every street in Washington was patroled. At the request of Mr. Richards, Gen. Augur sent horses to mount the police. Every road leading out of Washington was strongly picked, and every possible avenue of escape was also thoroughly guarded. Steamboats about to depart down the Potomac river were stopped.

The Daily Chronicle says it is supposed that the assassin of Secretary Seward is John Surratt.

The man Booth has played on, from one of Ford's theatre" and is, of course acquainted with the premises. He could left entrance, and with which he escaped behind the scenes is easily understood. The person who attacked Secretary Seward left behind him a sheath knife and an old rusty naval revolver. The cylinders were broken loose from the barrel as by force.

VERY LATEST.

The Assassins Found Out.

Who and What They Are.

Suspicious Circumstances Coming to Light.

Booth's Mistress Attempts to Commit Suicide.

Special Cabinet Meeting.

High Expectations of President Johnson

Arrests in Baltimore.

Special to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 15.

The impression which prevailed last night that the murderer of President Lincoln is none other than the actor, J. W. Booth, has been reduced to a certainty. He, accompanied by another man, who gave his name as Smith, are reported to have passed over the eastern branch bridge, a little before half past eleven o'clock last night. His companion is thought to be one Surrat, the son of a wealthy planter of strong secession sympathies residing in Prince George's County, Maryland. He answers to the description of the man who made the attack on Seward. Booth has been intimate with his family, visiting them frequently. The Surrats are relations of the Col. Boyle, who, with his son, it will be remembered, killed a recruiting officer for the U. S colored troops in Prince George's County some two years since and then fled to Richmond. The papers found in the trunk of Booth are in the custody of the Attorney General. They make it certain that the assassination has been in contemplation for some time, and that it was intended to have been consummated. There now exists no doubt that the infernal scheme was known by some of the bitterest secessionists in Richmond, and was carried into effect by a band located in Washington and the adjoining counties of Maryland.

Reports of Booth's capture have been current, but all were false. He was taken this morning near Fort Washington on the Potomac river, near Fort Haskin, on the Eastern branch of the Potomac. Another person was also arrested, supposed to be Booth, but he afterwards proved to be a different man. Preparations had been made to lodge the prisoner in one of the monitors at the navy yard. To guard against popular violence. It is probable that the arrest of the guilty parties and their whereabouts would for the same reason be kept secret by the authorities. On Friday afternoon, Booth, in conversation with a friend on Penn sylvania avenue, remarked that he had lost six thousand Dollars by the late freshet in the oil regions, where he has property. He also said that he was going to Canada where he had a theatrical engagement. He is said he was worth $50,000, which he had made in theatrical business.

The hat of Booth left in the theatre has been shown this morning and identified by several persons. The pistol he also dropped while making his exit, is an old fashioned one, silver mounted and of French manufacture, about three inches in length. A large knife was found in a alley with a sai and sheath, Junius Brutus Booth, brother of Wilkes Booth, was announced to appear at Pike's Opera House, Cincinnati, to night. It is understood the Secretary impelled to secrecy. All places of amusement are closed to night. Rumors prevail of several persons having been killed or expressing joy at Mr. Lincoln's death, but it is believed they are false.

Several impromptu street meetings have been held to day, and resolutions expressing the loyal sentiments of the citizens, the unanimous expression being to hold the rebel leaders to a strict account for their crimes.

Two men expressing respect for Jeff. Davis were driven out of a newspaper counting room by the crowd, they seeking safety in flight.

At 1 o'clock the tolling of the bells of the Fire Department sounds in my ears. Major Rathbone, who was in the box with the President and Mrs. Lincoln, and was severely wounded in the hand, is a step son of Senator Harris, of New York.

A special Cabinet meeting was called this morning by Secretary Stanton, Mr. Seward being unable to do the duties in his office Chase was also officially informed of the death of the President, and the action of the cabinet in relation thereto. The bearing o the Vice President on the occasion of his taking the oath of office has answered the expectation of his most ardent friends. His appearance denotes the possession of excellent health, and that his sterling intellectual powers are in no degree impaired.

Your correspondent had the pleasure of seeing him during his late visit to Richmond, and was most hopefully impressed by his bearing and conversation. His relations with the old members of his Cabinet were most cordial.

The excitement throughout the city continues with but little abatement. The loyal populace is furious. A battle scarred officer remarked this morning, "God help the South. The policy of mercy, of which our murdered President was the truest representative, was right before. Now, nothing remains but the policy of the iron hand."

The investigations in progress to-day have already implicated five persons who must have had a part in the affair, and how much more extensive the plot was is not known. I is believed that Booth was a member of a secret society, and that the work of assassination fell to him by lot.

The *Star* has the following: "Ellen Turner, Mistress of J. W. Booth, attempted suicide this morning by taking chloroform. At seven o'clock some of the inmates of the house entered Ella's room and found her lying upon the bed apparently asleep. Efforts to arouse her proving fruitless several physicians were called in, when it was discovered that she had taken chloroform. The proper remedies were applied, when she soon recovered and asked for Booth's picture, which she had concealed under the pillow of her bed, at the same time remarking to the physician that she did not think it them for saving her life.

There is no doubt that Booth had been seeking an opportunity to assassinate the President for some time. A few days since he urged Mr. Hess, manager of Grover's Theatre, to invite the President and Cabinet to attend a performance there, and seemed particularly anxious that Mr. Lincoln should be attended by his Cabinet advisers. Yesterday he called at the Kirkwood House, and inquired for the Vice President, sending up his card, which, in the absence of Mr. Johnson, was received by his private secretary, Mr. Browning.

Booth has been about the city for the last four months, and he said to his acquaintance that he was on business connected with his property, in which, it is said he was connected.

He has, during this time, kept a horse and buggy, but said them, through a friend, on Wednesday last, stating that he had no further use for them. On yesterday morning he made his appearance at the theatre with another horse which he said he had hired and paid for it in a stable near by.

Colonel Wright, Provost Marshal of Baltimore, telegraphs to the authorities there that he has arrested a number of persons on suspicion of being connected with the murder of President Lincoln and the attempted assassination of Secretary Seward, and asks that directions of the men committing the assaults be furnished him. If we are not mistaken, the man Surratt was, it is believed, did the bloody work at Secretary Seward's, but for many years been boarded as a despatch o ver in the Secretary's department, of a most equivocal character. A suit was brought against him by a young lady residing across the Eastern branch for seduction, and so desperate was his character that for some time the officers were afraid to serve the writ, but one of them, by laying to ambush, succeeded in taking her.

The Saturday Commercial

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BOOTH CAUGHT.

HE IS IN CONFINEMENT

His Accomplices at Large.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, April 15.

Booth has been arrested and is now under confinement. His accomplices are still at large.

Sec. Seward's Condition.

REASONABLE HOPES OF HIS RECOVERY.

FREDERICK SEWARD IN A CRITICAL CONDITION.

The Plot Coming to Light.

Its Character, Failure, Success.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

NEW YORK, April 15.

At eight o'clock this evening the physicians in attendance upon Secretary Seward report that he is better, and that they are hopeful of his recovery. Frederick Seward is still in a critical condition and still remains insensible, but his physicians do not altogether despair of his recovery.

A careful examination of the letters and documents left behind by the assassin Booth, establishes beyond doubt the fact that a deep laid plot has been for a long period in existence to capture the President, Secretary Seward and Stanton,